

# Perspectives and Actions of Other Organizations and Government Agencies

## What are the Varying Perspectives on Free-Ranging Bison of Different Organizations in Montana?

A number of regional organizations are opposed to or have passed resolutions opposing free-ranging bison and/or the movement of bison within Montana based on the perspective that free-ranging bison could be a threat to the agricultural industry due to concerns over disease, competition for forage, threats to infrastructure, and public safety.

A number of national, international, and regional nongovernment sportsmen and conservation organizations have made the preservation of bison and restoration of wild bison a priority on a variety of landscapes in the west including Montana.

## What Actions are Different Organizations in Montana Taking to Preserve or Restore Bison?

Bison conservation programs are being developed and implemented by nongovernmental organizations, Native American tribes, and others within Montana.

Some initiatives include increasing the scientific knowledge used to manage bison; reducing the occurrence of reportable disease; identifying suitable areas to reintroduce bison; increasing the available habitat for bison; and the restoration of bison as native grazers.

## What Actions are Other Government Agencies Taking in Montana to Preserve or Restore Bison?

National management agencies, such as the U.S Department of Interior, are facing pressure to examine the status of bison and explore options for conservation.

As of 2010 there were no specific federal efforts proposed to protect or reintroduce bison beyond the boundaries of existing populations in national parks, monuments, or wildlife refuges within Montana.

In 2008 the U.S Department of Interior published a new framework for management of the federal herds that established steps to address the health and genetic composition of its herds. The framework acknowledges the ecological and cultural role of bison on the American landscape.

